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11. OCCURRENCE OF THE BLACKWINGED STILT (*HIMANTOPUS*
HIMANTOPUS) IN KERALA

Late in the evening on 18-ii-1979 one of us (VKS) spotted a single Stilt in the water-logged paddy fields near the Agricultural College, Vellayini. The next day we went to the place at 5.15 p.m. and, in the course of an hour, came across nine Stilts. Of these 2 had brownish backs and looked much paler than the others. All the jet black birds had a black patch extending from in front of the eye to the nape, rather like the blinkers of a cart-horse. The only pale bird that we could ex-

amine closely through our binoculars had smoky-brown on the sides of the head and over the nape. Without an exception, all had greyish hindnecks (from nape to mantle). Evidently they were all of the nominate form. Could they have been juveniles assuming the summer plumage?

The HANDBOOK (Vol. 2, 1969, page 329) says, "Not recorded in Kerala", and the bird is not included in Sálim Ali's BIRDS OF KERALA (1969).

KERALA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
TRIVANDRUM, KERALA,
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